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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 250488

66
ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 /039 R

- -

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSBARRETT:NB
APPROVED BY P - MR. SISCO
T - MR. LEWIS
OSD/ISA:COL. SIGLER
AF/E:WBCOOTE
AF:NDAVIS
S/S :APSHANKLE
---------- 072538
O R 212256Z OCT 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF

S E C R E T STATE 250488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: F-5E PROCUREMENT
REF: ADDIS ABABA 12392

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO

1. CONGRESS RECONVENED YESTERDAY AND MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES HAVE JUST BEGUN RETURNING TO WASHINGTON. WE BELIEVE FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY MEMBERS, PRIOR TO
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MANDATORY SUBMISSIONS OF LOA TO CONGRESS, ARE NECESSARY TO MINIMIZE CHANCES THAT THIS TRANSACTION MIGHT BE DELAYED OR ABORTED. CONGRESS HAS THE STATUATORY RIGHT TO INTER-

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VENE IN SUCH SALES IN THE COURSE OF THE 20 DAY PERIOD AFTER SUBMISSION. THE RISK OF SUCH A DEVELOPMENT IS PARTICULARLY SERIOUS IN THIS CASE IN VIEW OF COINCIDENCE WITH PROBLEM OF KAGNEW FOUR, AS CESSATION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PMG IS ONE OF DEMANDS FOR THEIR RELEASE.

ECAUSE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THIS TRANSACTION MIGHT JEO-PARDIZE OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF KAGNEW FOUR, OUR PRESENT INTENTION IS TO SUBMIT THE OA TO CONGRESS IN CLASSIFIED FORM, IN THE HOPE THAT THIS ILL LESSEN CHANCES OF MEDIA EXPOSURE. REASON FOR THIS LASSIFICATION IS BEING STRESSED IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WHICH ARE GOING FORWARD ON AN URGENT BASIS.

2) SUBSTANCE OF LOA HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF LENGTHY NEGO-TIATIONS WITH ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY HERE AND THEY HAVE BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ON NEED TO SIGN IT ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 14, AND ON DESIRABILITY OF FULL CONSULTATION WITH KEY CONGRESSMEN BEFORE PRESENTATION TO CONGRESS. PRESENT PLANS ARE FOR LOA TO BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS THIS WEEK' WE HOPE AND EXPECT LOA WILL BE SIGNED ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 14 UNLESS CONGRESS BLOCKS ACTION OR PMG BALKS AT LAST MINUTE. WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO MINIMIZE CHANCES THAT EITHER OF THESE EVENTUALITIES WILL OCCUR. INGERSOLL

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